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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 15 August 1955

SUBJECT : Postponement of New Family Law

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On 18 May 1955, it was learned that the promulgation of the new family law demanded by the SED Central Committee and drafted with the help of Hilde Benjamin has been postponed for the time being. This action was taken by order of Pushkin, who did not want to widen the gulf existing in the administration of justice between West Germany and East Germany. The present tendency in the GDR is to make divorces more difficult. SED members were threatened with a trial before a party court if they divorced their wives without proving that the guilt was unambiguously on the side of their wives. This change of attitude has also been induced by the Soviets. In view of the arbitrary handling of divorce cases, Pushkin asked a well-known Soviet jurist of Moscow University to lecture in the GDR on the principles of the Soviet family and marriage laws.

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